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ANNUAL REPORT

... OF ...

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

... OF THE ...

Pocklington Rural District Council

FOR 1925.



W & C. FORTH, PRINTERS

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF POCKLINGTON.

SIR,

As Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Pocklington, I beg to submit to you the following Survey Report for the past five years included in which is the Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1925.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER AND
GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Natural and Social
Conditions of the
District.

The Pocklington Rural District is situated in the East Riding of Yorkshire, having York to the West and Great Driffield and Beverley to the East. It comprises 46 parishes, the total area of which is 108,101 acres, or nearly 169 square miles. The total population at the census of 1921 was 10,920; the population at the census of 1911 being 11,277. The number of inhabited houses is 2,646 and the number of families or separate occupiers is 2,646. The reduced assessable value is £55,441, the sum represented by a penny rate being £232 : 0 : 1.

The District forms part of the valley of the Derwent, its western boundary being formed by this stream. A line taken from Market Weighton through Shipton, Nunburnholme, Kilnwick Vicarage, Pocklington, Bishop Wilton, and Bugthorpe, roughly divides the District into a north side and a south side. The north side consists of the chalk wolds, and the south side of the flat country, helping to form part of the vale of York. In the low country under the surface lies the keuper marl, or red clay, and under this bunter sandstone. At the foot of the wolds, where the wold country and low country join, the lias clays come to the surface above the keuper marl; the presence of the impervious lias clays on the edge of the chalk accounting for the springs which appear at the base of the wolds, in the numerous deep dales which are one of the most prominent features of this District.

Market Weighton is by far the most populous parish in the District, the population being 1,717; no other parish being more than 600; 25 parishes do not exceed 200 in population; in 16 others it is between 200 and 400; and in that of the remaining four it is between 400 and 600.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The District is almost entirely agricultural, and the chief occupations are in connection with that industry.

The 46 parishes comprising the District, together with the parish of Pocklington (which is an Urban District), constitute the Pocklington Union for Poor Law purposes; the ordinary cases of illness amongst the poor being treated in the Workhouse; cases requiring hospital treatment being sent to the Hull Royal Infirmary or York County Hospital.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

During the year the number of births registered in the District amounted to 207, being 4 less than the year previous, and giving a birth rate of 18·30 per 1000.

Of these 107 were males and 100 females.

Of the total births registered 14 were illegitimate, 6 being males and 8 females, being at the rate of 6·60 per 100 births. In 1924 there were 22 illegitimate births.

DEATHS.

During the same period the deaths of 111 persons have been recorded in the District, being 3 less than in 1924.

Of these deaths 64 were males and 47 females.

30 deaths of persons belonging to the District occurred in public institutions outside the District, thus increasing the number of deaths to 141.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age amounted to 14, being in the proportion of 66·0 to every 1000 births registered.

There were 4 deaths of illegitimate children during the year.

There has been no unusual mortality during the year from any one disease.

			Total	M	F	
Births	Legitimate	....	207	107	100	} Birth Rate (RG)
	Illegitimate	....	14	6	8	
Deaths	....	....	141	83	58	Death Rate (RG)
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth		....	{ From Sepsis		....	Nil
		....	{ From other causes		....	4
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births		....	66·0			
		Legitimate....10	Illegitimate....4	Total....14		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)		....	....	....	....	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)		....	....	....	....	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhoea (Gastro Enteritis) under 2 years of age		....	....	....	....	Nil

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

The number of cases notified during the year was 20 as compared with 83 in the previous year.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	7	7	—
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—

Tuberculosis—					
(a) Pulmonary	{	M	6....	—	—
		F	5....	—	—
		Total	11....	11	4
(b) Non-Pulmonary	{	M	—....	—	—
		F	1....	—	—
		Total	1....	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum				—	—

Analysis of total cases of Infectious Disease. Cases notified 20.

No.	Years.
—	under 2
—	2 to 3
—	3 - 4
2	4 - 5
3	5 - 10
4	10 - 15
2	15 - 20
6	20 - 35
1	35 - 40
2	40 - 55
—	55 & over
<hr/>	
20	

The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 1 and the number notified was 12. The cases of Tuberculosis are usually always notified, but if not it is generally where a case is rapidly moved for sanatorium treatment, cases notified in previous years, or where a resident of the District dies outside the District.

Analysis of Deaths from notifiable Infectious Diseases.

No.	Years
0	15 to 20
0	20 - 35
1	35 - 50
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1	

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

There have been no especial causes of sickness during the year, and no conditions of occupation exist which are prejudicial to the general health of the District.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

**Professional Nursing
in the Home.**
(a) General.

In ordinary cases of sickness the nursing is done by the other members of the family unless the services of a trained nurse are requisitioned.

The East Riding Nursing Association sends nurses to working class patients who are subscribers, but these nurses are generally employed as monthly nurses, although their help is frequently given for cases of illness.

(b) Infectious Diseases.

The milder forms of infectious disease are nursed by the other members of the family or by getting a reliable help if possible. This applies to Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, &c. In the more serious diseases such as Scarlet, Diphtheria, Enteric, &c., most cases are removed, whenever possible, to the Isolation Hospital at Driffield. Unless this is done it is practically impossible to do anything approaching proper isolation in the patient's dwellinghouse.

There are no definite arrangements whereby nursing is supplied either by the County or Local Authority, the only private Association being the East Riding Association.

There are no voluntary workers and no local arrangements are made for general nursing.

MIDWIVES.

The East Riding County Council have midwives in certain areas in the District where it is considered necessary, and they are paid by the Council and employed as whole time officers.

There are 2 midwives practising who are not on the County staff.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

A centre has been opened in the District by the County Council at Pocklington. Nurses to superintend these meetings are sent by the County Council, and they examine and weigh the infants and give advice to mothers regarding them. There are no day nurseries or school clinics in the District.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Cases of Tuberculosis are, if the house accommodation be satisfactory, nursed at home, if not, the case is removed to a Sanatorium, usually the Raywell Sanatorium, owned and maintained by the County Authority. If this is not available other Sanatoria would be used, such as Withernsea or Aysgarth. These institutions are all outside the District.

Venereal Diseases.

Arrangements have been made by the County Authorities whereby anyone suffering from Venereal Disease can get free treatment either at the York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary. There is very little Venereal Disease in the District.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.
I.—Tuberculosis.

The Raywell Sanatorium is provided by the County Council. It is situated near Cottingham. It has accommodation for 29 adults and 14 children. If there was not available accommodation at Raywell the County Council would make arrangements for a bed at some other Sanatorium such as Withernsea or Aysgarth.

II.—Maternity.

There is no Maternity Hospital in the District, but cases are admitted, for those who are very poor, to the Workhouse Infirmary. Generally they are single women.

III.—Children.

Any cases requiring Hospital treatment are sent to either York County Hospital or the Hull Royal Infirmary, but there is no Hospital in the District. Cases amongst the very poor are sometimes sent to the Workhouse Infirmary.

An Orthopædic Hospital at Kirby Moorside is now available for cripple children, on application to the County Authorities.

IV.—Fever.

There is no Fever Hospital in the District, but the County provide an Isolation Hospital for the District at Driffield, where the accommodation is 28 beds and 6 cots.

V.—Smallpox.

The County Authorities have a Smallpox Hospital at Shipton-Thorpe which has 18 beds.

There is no institution in the District for unmarried mothers, but when they have no home they are admitted on request to the Workhouse Lying-in Ward before confinement, homeless children being sent to the Children's Home in connection with the Workhouse, but a separate building. These institutions are not in the Rural District but are in the Pocklington Urban.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For Infectious Cases.

A motor ambulance is provided from the Driffeld Isolation Hospital by the County Authorities.

(b) Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.

No ambulance is provided by the Authorities; a car would be hired and paid for by the poor law if the person was unable to provide it.

LABORATORY WORK.

Medical men in the District can have bacteriological examinations made by the Clinical Research Association free of charge in cases of Diphtheria, Enteric, and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The Council supply diphtheria antitoxin to any practitioners in the District who require it for either general or prophylactic use.

During the year 16 bacteriological examinations were made, and 4 samples of drinking water were analysed.

There are no byelaws or local regulations relating to the public health in force in the District, and the only Adoptive Act is the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907. Part II—Secs. 25, 30 and 33. Part III—The whole, with the exception of Secs. 39 to 42 inclusive, and Secs. 47 to 51. Part IV—The whole, with the exception of Sec. 67. Part V—The whole. Adopted 13th June, 1910.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 were adopted on 28th May, 1923, and came into force on 30th June, 1923.

Sec. 27 of Part 2 (II) of the Public Health Act (Amendment Act) 1907, relating to temporary dwellings, came into force on 12th May, 1924.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Dwellinghouses inspected	129
„ notices served	100
New houses built.....	9
Have Building Byelaws been adopted ?	No
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious disease	20
Dwellinghouses disinfected after cases of Phthisis.....	3
Schools disinfected after cases of ordinary infectious diseases....	Nil
Dwellinghouses found overcrowded	Nil
Privies converted to W.C.'s	4
„ „ pail closets	12
Offensive trades inspected	30
Total number of nuisances found.....	100
„ „ abated.....	96

Water supplies—	
Houses newly supplied with water mains	Nil
New wells made	9
New bore wells made.....	Nil
Wells closed, water unsafe	Nil
Samples of water sent for examination.....	4
Water certificates granted for new houses in Rural Districts	Nil
Dairies and Cowsheds—	
Have Regulations been adopted ?.....	Yes
Number of dairies and cowsheds on register	28
Number of cows	144
Visits to cowsheds and dairies	90
Defects found	4
„ remedied.....	4
Slaughter Houses—	
Number on register.....	15
Visits to	320
Number of defects found	7
„ „ remedied.....	7
Unwholesome Food Condemned—	
Meat	92 stones
Fish	Nil
Fruit	Nil
Other Foods.....	Nil
Common Lodging Houses—	
Number on register.....	1
Visits to	3
Number of defects found	1
„ „ remedied.....	1
Canal Boats inspected	Nil

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

One quarter of the population is supplied from properly constructed water supplies. These supplies, pure and abundant, are obtained from deep bores. The remaining three quarters draw their supply largely from shallow wells. One village has an excellent spring in the centre, while two of the wold villages depend entirely on rain water. This is collected in large underground tanks to which every available rain water pipe is carried.

The wold village of Thixendale is supplied by standpipe, accommodating about 115 persons, and the other piped supplies, Market Weighton, Londesborough, Barmby Moor and Shipton-Thorpe, are carried into the houses. All houses in these villages are connected, or, in the case of a number of small houses, a common standpipe is provided.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

There is, unfortunately, a considerable amount of pollution by sewage going on. This is being attended to in the villages as time and circumstances permit. See below.

Arrangements for Drainage and Sewerage and Sewage disposal in all parts of the District.

The sewerage of many of the villages is of primitive type but war on these conditions is being continuously waged and it is a financial impossibility to bring the villages up to standard at anything approaching one attack. The system adopted is to carry the work out by sections. During the past 5 years the sewerage has been commenced, extended, or finished in Barmby Moor, Bishop Wilton, Bugthorpe, Burnby, Cottingwith, Everingham, Fridaythorpe, Hayton, Market Weighton, Millington, Sancton, Seaton Ross and Stamford Bridge. The total length of these sewers exceeds 3,000 yards. A great amount of private drainage has been carried out by the owners of property. While much remains to be done a great improvement throughout the District may be recorded under this head.

The Privy, W.C. and Closet Accommodation in the District.

The most common form of closet accommodation is the privy. They number approximately 1,100, pail closets 500 and W.C.'s 280. The greatest number of W.C.'s is in Market Weighton, a parish of about 1,700 population. Conversion to the water carriage system is not proceeding on any definite policy—the change being usually undertaken by the owners when property is under repair, has changed hands, or has been inspected and found insufficient in sanitary accommodation. The total abolition of the privy in Market Weighton would be a great sanitary advantage.

In nearly all houses recently erected throughout the District a W.C. has been provided and drained to a settling tank and the effluent treated in a simple form of filter before being passed into any watercourse. In several cases, to meet the requirements of the travelling public, the accommodation at the inns and refreshment houses has been remodelled and brought quite up to date. The installation of a W.C. is often accompanied by the provision of a bath.

Arrangements for the removal of house refuse, and cleansing of earth closets and ashpits in the District.

Market Weighton is the only parish where a scheme is working. The Parish Council is delegated with the power necessary and on the whole is efficiently carried out. In the other villages the cleansing of the ashpits, cesspools, etc., is carried out by the tenants. A general improvement has taken place within the last few years, but there are still occasional nuisances.

Factory and Workshops Act.

The Workshops consist chiefly of one man businesses and number 55. The general cleanliness is satisfactory. A great number of these are rooms or buildings attached to the cottage where the worker lives, and the domestic sanitary arrangements are in common. The sanitary condition of the larger establishments is satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

One qualified Sanitary Inspector is employed by the Council as a whole time officer, whose salary is contributed to under the Public Health Act. No other officers, health visitors, or nurses, are employed by the Council.

A health visitor periodically visits the District from the County Council.

General Sanitary Inspection of the District.

The general inspection of premises, occupations, &c., coming

under the control of the Council is on a much larger scale than indicated by the figures. Many surprise inspections and visits are made and unless any special incident arises therefrom are not recorded.

A noteworthy feature is the general inclination of the public throughout the District to observe sanitary principles. This is reflected in the numerous enquiries for advice on many subjects appertaining to health, cleanliness and sanitation.

It is being realised, for instance, that it is no longer necessary to be plagued with flies during the hot weather, and advice is given freely on how to destroy vermin, etc., and make indifferent surroundings clean and wholesome.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary condition, water supply, &c., of schools is a subject of importance, and although one or two reports have reached the Council and the necessary action taken it would be to the advantage of the District if the schools were inspected and reported upon in detail more frequently. Several interviews with managers of non-provided schools have led to improvements.

HOUSING.

General Conditions.

(a) Extent of shortage. There is a decided shortage of good accommodation. There are many houses occupied which would be condemned if there was other available accommodation. That there is a demand for more houses is evident by the applications submitted for Council houses, and the private house owners in every part of the District have waiting lists of considerable length.

(b) Measures taken to meet any shortage. The Council, in 1920, built 16 houses in Market Weighton and made known as widely as possible the subsidy schemes. 12 houses were built by private enterprise under the various forms of subsidy. In 1925 a private firm discussed with the Housing Committee of the Council the possibility of providing workmen's cottages. At the close of the year a scheme was launched commencing with 5 houses under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924, with the payment of £12 : 10 : 0 per annum for forty years.

The population of the District during the period under review has not altered to any great extent. In the same period 55 new houses have been erected including the 16 erected by the Council.

Overcrowding.

There is no serious overcrowding from a legal standpoint, but from a moral standpoint the conditions are not so favourable. An instance—father, mother, and daughter 15 years of age in a house with one bedroom. The legal overcrowding is nil, similarly, father, mother, son and daughter over school ages—two bedrooms.

This form of overcrowding will be dealt with gradually as the scheme aforementioned proceeds.

Fitness of Houses.

1. (a) The standard of housing is not so high as it ought to be.
- (b) The general character of defects. The chief defect is dampness through the houses having been built without a dampcourse, and to aggravate this, at the period when

many of the houses were built it was a common practice to sink them below ground level. The next is the defective construction of closet accommodation. The privies are often uncemented and where the water supply is drawn from a well within the same curtilage this defect requires strict attention.

(c) Very few defects can be attributed to the tenant, by far the greater proportion being structural and therefore the owner's liability.

2. (a) The Public Health Act is chiefly used in the cases of defective water supply, privy accommodation, and drainage, and when the premises appear unfit for habitation a proper inspection is made under the (b) Housing Act. In this way 5 houses were closed and 2 repaired by the Council in default.

3. No great difficulty is experienced in this District regarding repairs under section 3 of the 1925 Act, the owners having met the Council's requirements satisfactorily. Of 706 houses inspected 413 were rendered in every way fit, while a proportion of the total did not require attention. When it is remembered that some of the notices required 10 defects to be remedied, such as privy, water supply, drain, paving, plaster, roof, walls, floors, windows, wash-house, and spouts, it took no small effort financially on the part of the owner to meet these requests. Sometimes arrangements were made to remedy the grosser defects and after an interval to complete the work.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	12
(b) 1 As part of a municipal housing scheme.....	5
(b) 2 Private houses erected with assistance of subsidy	5

1. Unfit Dwellinghouses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	180
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	51
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	40

2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in conse-

.	quence of informal action by the Local Authority (including brought forward)	71
3.	Action under Statutory Powers.	
A.—	Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit—	
(a)	by owners	0
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursu- ance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0
B.—	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied—	
(a)	by owners	0
(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	0
C.—	Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1925.	
(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
(3)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwell- inghouses having been rendered fit	0
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pur- suance of Demolition Orders	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Frequent inspections are made of all cowsheds and dairies. These premises are in fairly good condition.

(i) Action taken as to tubercular milk or cattle, up to the close of the year, has consisted of reporting suspected cows to the Veterinary Officer of the County Council.

(ii and iii) No licence has been granted in the District for the sale of milk under any special designation, and no refusal or revocation of registration has occurred.

MEAT.

The inspection of meat is carried out systematically and at intervals. Numbers of carcasses are inspected during slaughter. The number of carcasses examined from the Regulations coming into force until the year end was 554.

Shops, stores and vehicles are more or less continuously under inspection.

(iii) There is no public slaughterhouse in the Council's District. The Food and Drugs Acts are worked by the County Council.

Systematic inspections are made from time to time of all butchers' shops, slaughterhouses, fish shops, bakeshops, common lodging houses, milk and meat purveyors, fellmongers' premises, &c.

Particulars of slaughterhouses—

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered	15	12	12
Licensed.....			3
Total.....	15	12	15

In conclusion, I have much pleasure in submitting my report, the number of cases of infectious diseases being decidedly less and a large number of sanitary improvements having been carried out.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Alfred Fairweather

Medical Officer of Health.

FAIRCOTE, POCKLINGTON.

1882

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